

MEDICAL SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

San Francisco, July 19, 1939.

Dear Doctor Kress:

Thanks for your letter of July 17. As I told you before, we have already sent duplicate material from the Medical Center Library to various county societies. In addition to the ones you list, the Santa Clara County Medical Society at San Jose is attempting to build up a library. I don't think that we have ever sent material to Riverside as yet, but we will if we have any on hand that they desire.

Our prime obligation at present is to maintain the files at Los Angeles which were established by the Los Angeles Branch of the State Medical Library. We have already made arrangements to do this with Dean Allen. They will see to it that duplicate material from here is bound to keep the files intact.

I see no objection to printing my letter in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, if you think it covers the situation. I have prepared reports on several occasions for President Sproul, but nothing has been included which is not covered in my letter to you. I have also prepared a short statement for the Clip-Sheet, which will be released if it is satisfactory to the President's Office. It contains substantially the same information as given in my letter to you.

With cordial best wishes, as always,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) CHAUNCEY D. LEAKE.

Subject: A request for information.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

San Francisco, July 21, 1939.

To the Editor:—Enclosed is a copy of a rather mysterious communication which we would appreciate your printing in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, omitting names and exact addresses.

Attention is called to the fourth and fifth paragraphs, also to the typewritten signature, "Pacific States Investigators," of which no record can be found by our Investigation Department.

The individual referred to in this letter was diagnosed as being two months pregnant, after which she assertedly solicited an abortion, which was refused. A few days later this letter was received.

We will appreciate hearing from any other doctors who have received similar letters, together with the circumstances in connection therewith.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) C. B. PINKHAM, M.D.,
Secretary-Treasurer.

(The following letter was received in a plain envelope, postmarked San Francisco, June 5, 4:30 p. m., 1939.)

(COPY)

San Francisco, California,
June 5, 1939.

Dr. ———
——— Building
(City), California

In re (Name)

Dear Doctor ———:

A few weeks ago your assistant had the following patient in your office. The nature of the case was maternity.

The call made was absolutely fictitious, and we are herewith explaining why the fee was not paid as Miss ——— promised.

Miss ——— is one of the operators of our organization, which we will not name, but which is one which investigates doctors and dentists in Oakland, Berkeley, and San Francisco. We work in close cooperation with the largest hospitals, and must work as we do to uncover disreputable doctors and dentists.

No certain doctor is set aside for investigation, but is given our so-called "test" as fast as we can do so. Our list is

then compiled and given to a hospitalization firm which is setting up a perfected system of group medicine, and which wishes to approach only the most reliable physicians and medical men.

We are very happy to inform you that you and Doctor ——— have been adjudged as worthy of consideration and you will hear further from the society shortly.

Thanking you for your cooperation, we remain,

Yours truly,

PACIFIC STATES INVESTIGATORS.

(Signed) (Name of Person).

Subject: American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Pittsburgh, Pa., July 7, 1939.

The next written examination and review of case histories (Part I) for Group B candidates will be held in various cities of the United States and Canada on Saturday, January 6, 1940, at 2 p. m. The Board announces that it will hold only one Group B, Part I examination this year prior to the final general examination instead of two as in former years. Candidates who successfully complete the Part I examination proceed automatically to the Part II examination held in June, 1940.

Applications for admission to Group B, Part I examinations must be on file in the Secretary's office not later than October 4, 1939.

The general oral and pathological examinations (Part II) for all candidates (Groups A and B) will be conducted by the entire Board, meeting in Atlantic City, N. J., on June 8, 9, 10 and 11, 1940, immediately prior to the annual meeting of the American Medical Association in New York City.

Applications for admission to Group A, Part II examinations must be on file in the Secretary's office not later than March 15, 1940.

After January 1, 1942, there will be only one classification of candidates, and all will be required to take the Part I examinations (written paper and case records) and the Part II examinations (pathological and oral).

At the annual meeting of the Board, held in St. Louis on May 12, 1939, it was found necessary, on account of increased administrative expenses, to increase the application and examination fees. Effective May 12, 1939, these are as follows: Application fee \$15, payable upon submission of application for review by Board; examination fee \$85, payable upon notification to candidate of acceptance of the application and assignment to examination. Neither fee is returnable. This increase does not apply to candidates whose applications were filed prior to May 12, 1939.

For further information and application blanks, address Dr. Paul Titus, Secretary, 1015 Highland Building, Pittsburgh (6), Pennsylvania.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE[†]

QUALIFICATIONS TO BE AN EXPERT WITNESS

By HARTLEY F. PEART, ESQ.

San Francisco

About nine out of every ten suits against physicians or surgeons are concerned with either of the following issues:

1. Was a proper and approved practice followed?
2. If not, did the failure to follow it cause the injury complained of?

The law is well settled that either of these two issues is a question of scientific knowledge and fact, and, therefore, with few exceptions can be testified to only by expert wit-

[†] Editor's Note.—This department of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, presenting copy submitted by Hartley F. Peart, Esq., will contain excerpts from and syllabi of recent decisions and analyses of legal points and procedures of interest to the profession.